

Profile for Rector/Dean

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology, South Orange, NJ

Archdiocese and University

The Archdiocese of Newark and Seton Hall University invite applications from qualified priestly formation and higher education leaders for the position of Rector/Dean of Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology (ICSST). The next rector/dean will join a community of scholars dedicated to outstanding teaching, research, and engagement at Seton Hall and beyond.

ICSST seeks a Catholic priest and chief academic officer who can inspire and organize a team of ministerial and academic professionals to teach and form priestly, diaconal, and lay ministers, leaders, and scholars to serve the Church and the academy locally and globally. The Archdiocese of Newark is the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Catholic Church in northeastern New Jersey comprising all the Catholic parishes, schools, and agencies in the counties of Bergen, Union, Hudson, and Essex. The Archdiocese of Newark is the metropolitan see of the larger ecclesiastical province of New Jersey that includes the Dioceses of Camden, Trenton, Metuchen, and Paterson and that is overseen by the Archbishop of Newark, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R. The See of Newark was established in 1853 by Pope Blessed Pius IX to include all New Jersey. In the decades that followed, subsequent popes divided the territory into smaller dioceses or ecclesiastical jurisdictions, what are now Newark's suffragan sees. The Diocese of Newark was elevated to the rank of an Archdiocese in 1937. Today the Archdiocese of Newark comprises 212 very diverse parishes, including Masses celebrated in fifteen languages other than English every weekend. Over 1.2 million Catholics form part of the Archdiocese, and they are served by approximately four hundred archdiocesan priests. Among the many institutions sponsored by the Archdiocese are fifty elementary schools, twenty-six high schools, and one university, Seton Hall. The first Ordinary or Bishop of the Diocese of Newark was Bishop James Roosevelt Bayley, a nephew of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. In 1856, he established Seton Hall College, naming it in honor of his saintly aunt, and in 1860 he founded Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall. In 1950 Seton Hall College became Seton Hall University by an act of the New Jersey State Legislature. Today Seton Hall University is one of the country's leading Catholic universities. Still sponsored by the Archdiocese of Newark, it is a nationally ranked, archdiocesan Catholic university committed to academic excellence; expanding liberal, professional, and scientific knowledge; fostering a diverse, inclusive, and equitable community; and preparing ethical and compassionate servant leaders for a global society. Seton Hall welcomes individuals from all faith traditions and from none. Seton Hall's Catholicism is an enabling vision, not a basis for exclusion. The University's faculty, students, and staff actively work to build a respectful, welcoming, and inclusive environment for every member of the community. Having campuses in South Orange, Newark, and Nutley-Clifton, all in close proximity to New York City, the University enjoys a level of diversity in ethnicity and beliefs unusual for an institution of its size. Home to over 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and offering more than ninety rigorous programs, Seton Hall has been singled out for academic distinction by The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report and Bloomberg Businessweek. The University's constituent schools and colleges are the College of Arts and Sciences, the Stillman School of Business, the College of Communication and the Arts, the School of Diplomacy and International Relations, the College of Education and Human Services, the School of Health and Medical Sciences, the College of Nursing, and Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology.

Seminary School

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology was founded and dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God in 1860. For more than 150 years it has risen to the ever-changing challenges of forming disciples – as both future priests and deacons, and undergraduate and graduate lay students – for service to Jesus Christ and his Church.

While in each era of its existence the ways and means of formation have developed to meet the tasks of the Church before the contemporary world, for more than 150 years Immaculate Conception has persevered in rising to the Lord's call to bring forth the best of the old and the new for the sake of the life of the world. In that spirit, Immaculate Conception anchors itself within the Church's living tradition, faithful to the Church's magisterium, while always embracing the motto of our university patron, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton: *Hazard Zet Forward* – "Whatever the peril, ever forward." As a seminary forming future priests, Immaculate Conception assists each candidate in discerning the authenticity of his vocation. It crafts the conditions in which the seminarian can respond to the Lord's call, as well as cultivating a wholehearted gratitude to God for the divine gift of a sharing in Christ's own priesthood. With these purposes in mind, our extraordinarily talented faculty — comprised of clergy as well as many lay scholars and authors in their own fields — and administrators devote their time and energy to preparing men for the priesthood in the 21st century. They are immersed in the four main areas of priestly formation offered to us by Pope St. John Paul II in his Apostolic Exhortation *Pastores Dabo Vobis* and articulated by the U.S. Bishops in their Program of Priestly Formation, namely: human, spiritual, academic, and pastoral. As the Seminary motto proclaims, the priests who complete our formation program will go forth to be "Dispensers of the Mysteries of God," offering the people visible signs of God's truth and infinite mercy. Since fall 2011, the Center for Diaconal Formation has provided graduate-level intellectual formation for permanent diaconate candidates. Our program of study focuses on the academic norms outlined in the *National Directory for the Formation, Ministry and Life of Permanent Deacons in the United States*. In addition to graduate-level courses, the Center for Diaconal Formation offers workshops, lectures and presentations for permanent diaconate candidates and their wives, as well as post-ordination diaconal formation and continuing education opportunities.

As a school of theology, Immaculate Conception helps to educate and form lay men and women in theology to prepare them to hear and respond to Christ's saving message in their own lives and to share in Christ's mandate to make disciples of all nations. In this way, our institution is unique. ICSST's various degree programs not only provide for our lay students academically, but also for their own human, pastoral, and spiritual formation. These academic programs include not only graduate level theology (M.Div., M.A., M.A.P.M.), but also an undergraduate B.A. in theology and a certificate in philosophical theology. The creation of the Institute for Christian Spirituality in 2005 expanded the Seminary's diverse programs and presented new opportunities, particularly for lay students, to experience the best offerings in spiritual and pastoral theology. In addition to the Center for Diaconal Formation's emergence out of the Institute, today the same Institute's work includes the Certificate Program in Catholic Evangelization (in collaboration with St. Paul Inside the Walls, Madison, N.J.). Countless ICSST lay alumni are now working in the Lord's vineyard, devoting their energy to the kingdom of God, and responding to an increasingly secular society with the wisdom of Christ found in his Church.

Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology is a microcosm of the universal Church. It includes faculty and staff, students, and alumni, consisting of seminarians, diaconate candidates, religious women and

men, and lay people from almost thirty countries. This diversity encompasses race, nationality, gender, age, ethnicity, culture, and economic backgrounds. The catholicity of Immaculate Conception is also found in the many and varied places our ordained and lay alumni serve — indeed, across the country and throughout the world. As such, formation at Immaculate Conception is formation in the heart of the Church. Faithful to Church Tradition, as defined and expressed by the Magisterium, Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology faces the challenges of the new millennium with the confidence of knowing that our Lord is the catalyst in all our work, and He is the one to bring it to completion.

Mission Statement of ICSST

Immaculate Conception Seminary is a House of Formation for the Roman Catholic priesthood and the School of Theology of Seton Hall University. As a House of Formation, the Seminary offers men preparing for the priesthood the personal, academic, ministerial, and spiritual formation essential for their conversion to Jesus Christ and their commitment to a life of service to the Church. As a School of Theology, the Seminary provides a theological and philosophical foundation for men and women pursuing undergraduate and graduate studies; a theological foundation and a pastoral and spiritual formation for men and women preparing for ministries among the people of God; a theological foundation for men and women desiring to pursue doctoral studies; and varied opportunities for continuing theological education.

Opportunities and Expectations for Leadership

The incoming rector/dean will join Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology at an exciting time. As rector, he will reinforce the Seminary/School of Theology in its identity and mission as both a house of formation and academic institution. He will continue to foster a faculty composed of priests, deacons, religious, and lay scholars who collaborate wholeheartedly in the mission of forming both clergy and laity for ministry and scholarship. He will strengthen the unity of the various segments of the learning community: clergy, religious, and laity; resident and nonresident seminarians; diocesan and religious seminarians. The rector/dean will increase the Seminary/School of Theology's service to the Church in the state, the region, and beyond by outreach and collaboration with bishops and dioceses, parishes and pastors, institutions, and their leadership. Capitalizing on the rich racial and ethnic diversity of the learning community, the new rector/dean will fortify the catholicity/universality of instruction and learning at the service of the Church's pluriform ministry and worldwide mission. As dean, the rector/dean is the chief academic and executive officer of the School of Theology. The dean reports directly to the Provost and Executive Vice President and has twelve direct reports, including two associate deans, the Vice Rector/Business Manager, eight directors, and the Assistant to the Rector/Dean and Vice Rector. This aspect of his role will see him working with the President and Provost and a newly launched strategic plan, *Harvest Our Treasures*. In harmony with the university's larger strategic plan, the new rector/dean will guide the Seminary School of Theology both to envision its future and to lead the faculty in the implementation of this vision, one that will be responsive to ever-changing landscapes and forge new paths in ministry. The new rector/dean will advance the integration of ICSST into the life of the university as a whole and increase its collaboration with the various other schools and colleges of the university, serving as a leading voice for its mission of educating holistically in the Catholic intellectual tradition.

Qualities and Qualifications of the Next Rector/Dean

The successful candidate will be a virtuous priest, scholar, and leader. The new rector/dean will be a Roman Catholic priest of outstanding reputation and broad pastoral experience. He will receive the unqualified and

highest recommendation for the position from his bishop or regional religious superior. He will be a man of living faith and personal integrity, a true spiritual father, who has a demonstrated passion for the new evangelization. He is required to be a compassionate but wise judge of both events and persons, firm in discipline and committed to transparency. As a scholar, he will be an academic who has earned a doctoral degree or equivalent in theology or associated field and who preferably has had experience in teaching and/or educational administration. As such, he will be familiar with a university setting and evince a passion for Catholic higher education and, more specifically, will have had significant experience in seminary formation/education work. The new rector/dean will be a leader, who first leads by his example. He should be a person with a proven record of accomplishment for advancing and expanding the mission, fostering the growth of the institutions that he has served in the past. He will be an enthusiastic bridge-builder who has a proven record of working well with numerous constituencies and one who seeks to build a community. As such, he should be a clear thinker and an appealing and effective communicator. Personally, the new rector/dean will be an individual of deep prayer and have a heart that reaches out to those on the margins – those on the “peripheries” as Pope Francis has said – and will be committed to and exemplify the Church’s profound social teaching. Navigating the academic rigor of being a dean and interacting with the intellectual leadership of the university, he will above all remain a prayerful servant leader and a faithful disciple of Christ.

Review of applications will begin December 15, with anticipated first-round interviews beginning January 16, 2023. It is expected that the appointment will be made by March 30, 2023, with responsibilities to begin July 1, 2023.

www.shu.edu/RectorDeanSearch

Seton Hall University is committed to programs of Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and the principles of affirmative action.